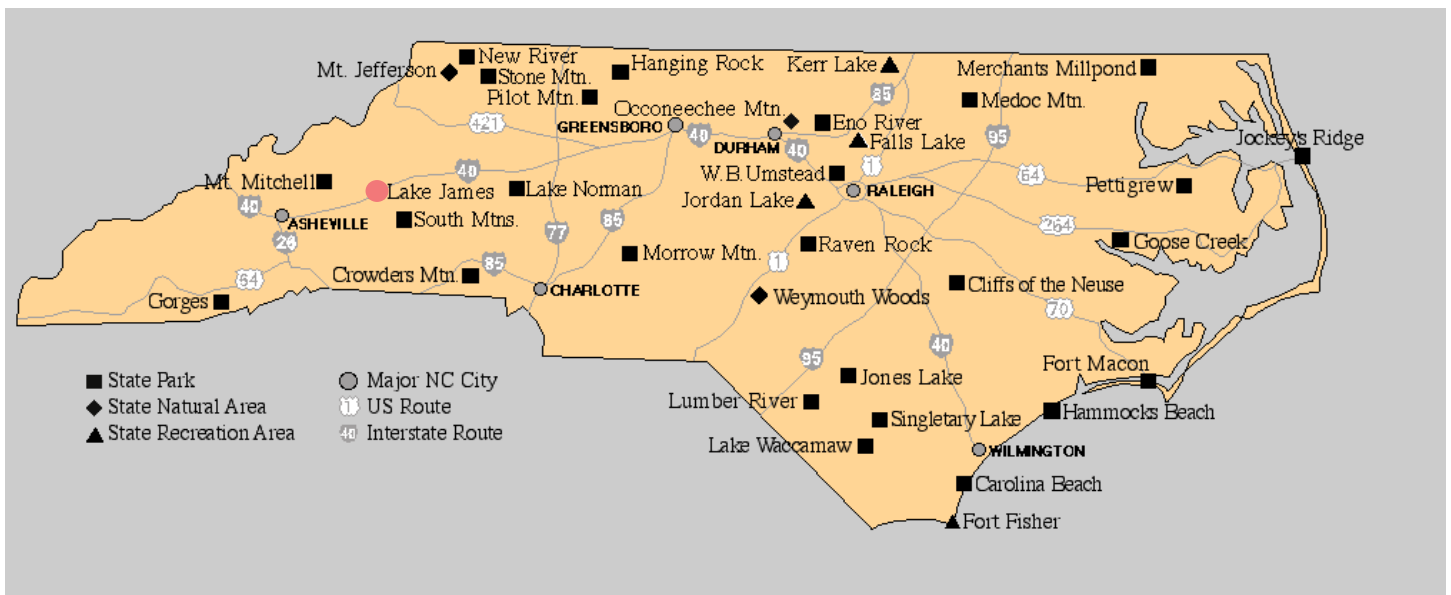




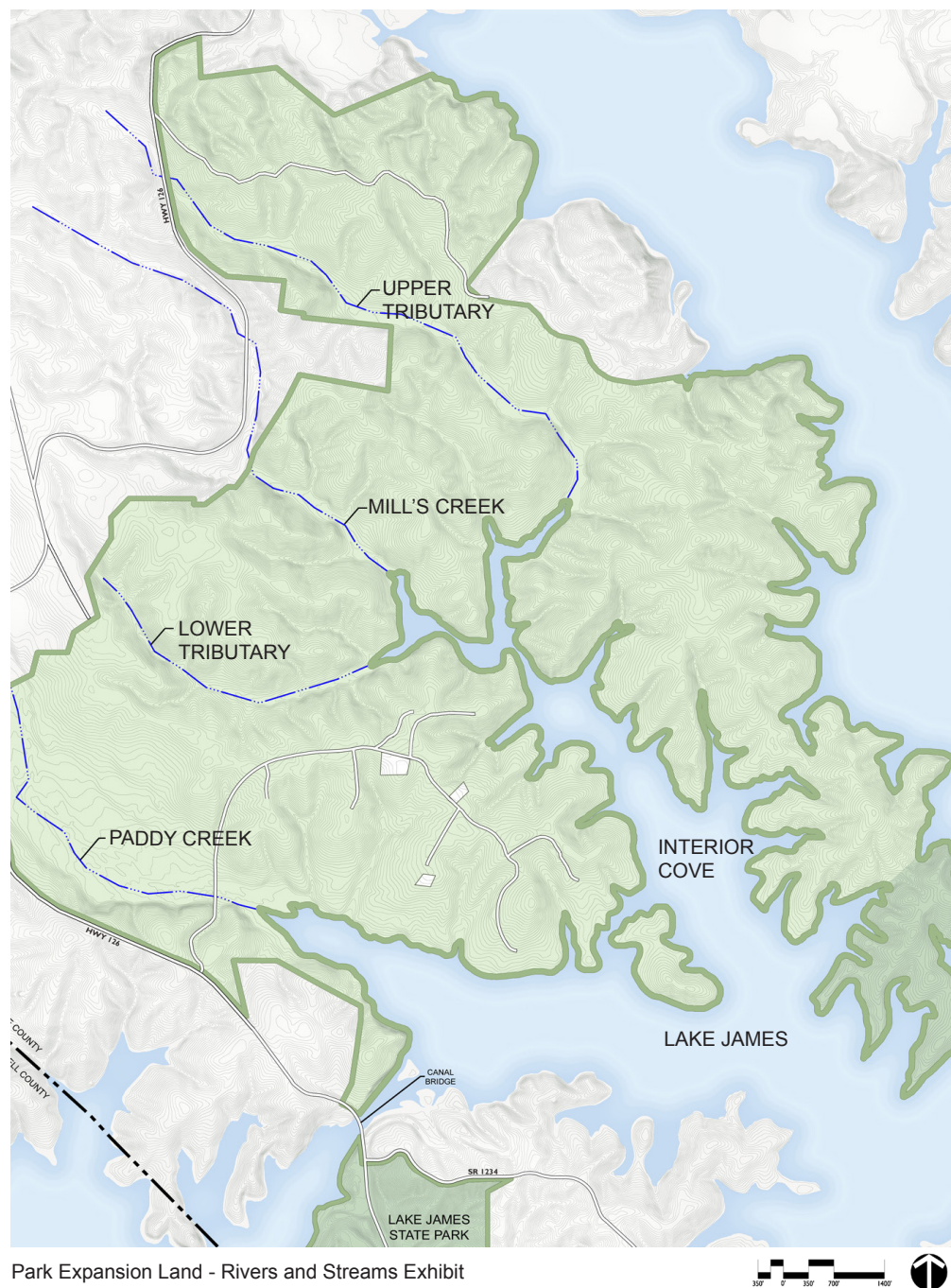
THE EXPANSION OF LAKE JAMES STATE PARK TO INCLUDE over 2,900 acres of newly acquired land was the culmination of two years of intensive planning discussions and a focused grass roots effort. The State, officials from Burke County and McDowell County, Crescent Resources, the local business and development communities, the Foothills Conservancy, the Citizens to Save Lake James, the Lake James Task Force, the Southern Environmental Law Center, Trout Unlimited and other conservation groups were all involved in creating this opportunity. One of the many goals of the park expansion effort was to increase the opportunity for the general public to access Lake James. With this acquisition, the communities surrounding Lake James have gained over 24 miles of shoreline with public access that will be preserved and protected for generations to come. The park expansion and its potential for increased access created the need for new initiatives in park planning and design.

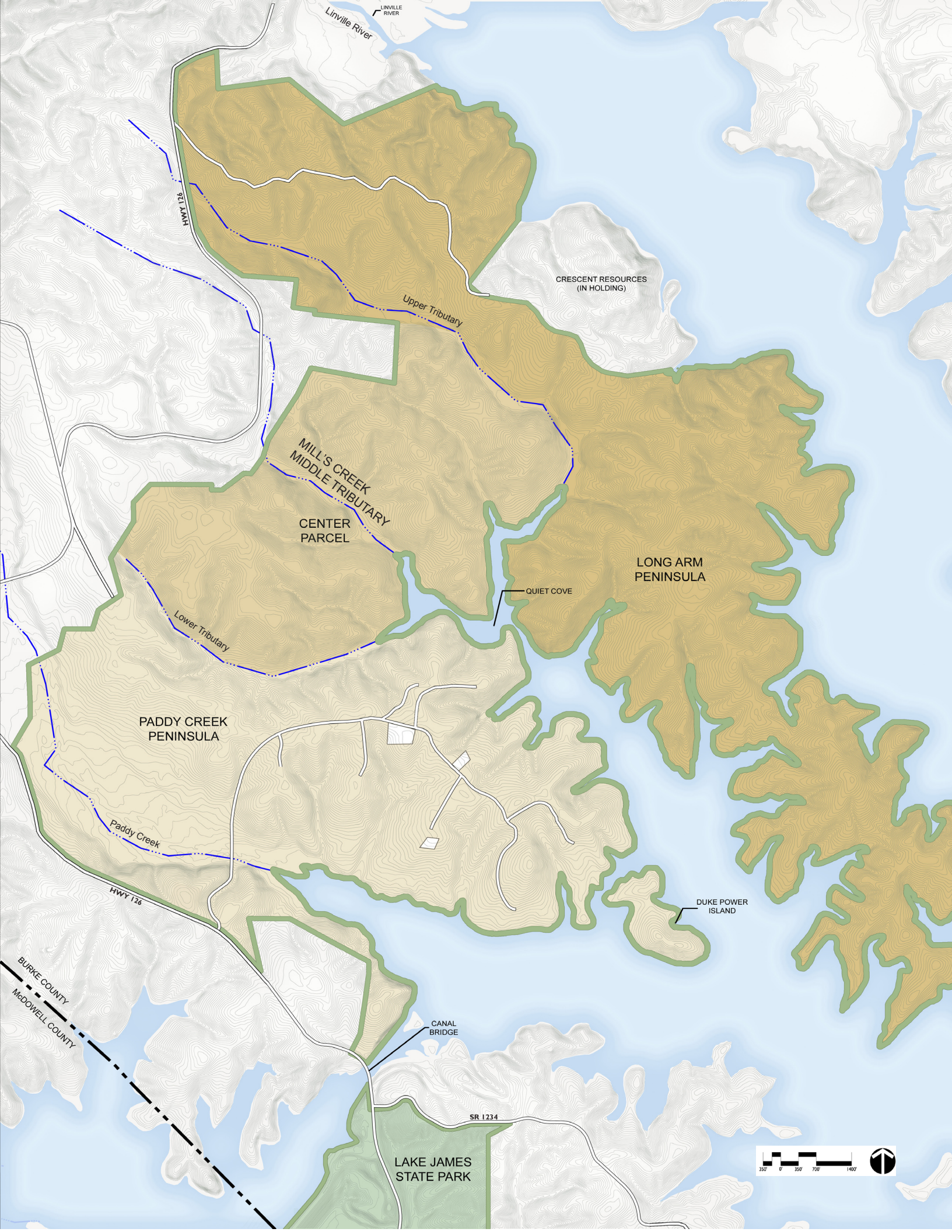
This master plan has been prepared in order to evaluate the opportunities presented within the acreage that has been acquired and to identify the most appropriate direction for the development of new park facilities. In discussions with State officials, site meetings with park staff and through public workshops, it was made clear that the demand for amenities has far outstripped the level of service that can be provided by the existing park facilities. Over time, all centralized park functions and management will be transferred to the new park site. This plan offers a new vision of how Lake James State Park will look and function. This vision will incorporate the wisdom of park staff and lessons learned at the existing park, as well as at numerous other state park areas. This vision considers the unique qualities of the park land, the land's relationship with the lake, the surrounding mountains, and the community of people who will visit and use the park.

This master plan represents a promise kept. While preserving and protecting the environmental asset that the park land represents, the new park will provide expanded opportunities for public access and outdoor activity. The master plan outlines the development of a place where the community can carry on traditions associated with the land and the lake. There will be a place for people to walk along the bank and fish quietly from the shoreline. There will be a place to swim and splash and picnic with friends and family. There will be a place under the hemlocks to camp and relax by a campfire. There will always be a path where one can hike through the woods, catch a glimpse of the surrounding mountains and feel the beauty of the place that is Lake James.



The park land is consolidated with the exception of several inholdings. The park is surrounded by forested lands with some residences and small farms along NC Highway 126. The north end of the new park land is within a few hundred yards of the mouth of the Linville River Aquatic Habitat. The Linville Gorge National Wilderness Area, located within the Pisgah National Forest, is located approximately three miles north-northwest of the park. The Blue Ridge Parkway passes 13 miles to the northwest. South Mountains State Park lies approximately 18 miles to the southeast (see map on page 12).





Linville River
LINVILLE RIVER

HWY 126

CRESCENT RESOURCES
(IN HOLDING)

Upper Tributary

MILL'S CREEK
MIDDLE TRIBUTARY
CENTER
PARCEL

Lower Tributary

QUIET COVE

LONG ARM
PENINSULA

PADDY CREEK
PENINSULA

Paddy Creek

HWY 126

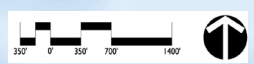
DUKE POWER
ISLAND

BURKE COUNTY
MCDOWELL COUNTY

CANAL
BRIDGE

SR 1234

LAKE JAMES
STATE PARK



Three specific land areas have been identified within the new park:

Paddy Creek Peninsula

This the southernmost area of the park land and covers approximately 1,000 acres and is a broad peninsula with extensive areas of gentle slopes. Paddy Creek bisects this area.

The Center Parcel

This central section is the smallest of the three areas with 585 acres. The Upper Tributary Creek and the Lower Tributary Creek mark it's north and south limits respectively. The Center Parcel is dominated by pine thickets and early succession forests.

Long Arm Peninsula

The Long Arm Peninsula is the northern-most section of the park and covers just over 1,300 acres of land. The lower extent of this peninsula becomes very narrow with steep slopes falling off to the many small coves that open to Lake James.

These three areas are indicated in the exhibit to the left on page 14. In the graphic, the limits of each area are delineated, the relative size of the three areas is demonstrated and the strong relationship between the park land and the lake is revealed. The existing Lake James State Park is located south of the new park land, just below the Canal Bridge.

